



3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085-2399
Phone: (847) 377-8000
Fax: (847) 360-3656

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Contact: Leslie Piotrowski
(847) 377-8055
Marcia Stanek
(847) 377-8099

Health Department Achieves Accreditation from Joint Commission

The Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center's Behavioral Health Services has achieved a third accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the nation's largest and oldest healthcare accrediting body. The agency received the highest level of accreditation, which is accreditation with full standards compliance. Behavioral Health Services originally gained accreditation in 1997 through a process that is repeated every three years.

"The renewal of our JCAHO accreditation speaks to the work of our Behavioral Health Services staff who are committed to providing services of the highest quality," said Dale Galassie, the Health Department's Executive Director. "Excellence of patient care is one of our guiding principles."

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JCAHO accreditation serves as an assurance to the local community that Health Department staff and programs meet or exceed national standards of quality. The accreditation process involves an extensive on-site survey by a Joint Commission surveyor experienced in the delivery of behavioral health services. The Joint Commission was formed in 1951 and is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's healthcare through voluntary accreditation.

Behavioral Health Services also achieved a second accreditation from JCAHO for its methadone treatment services. Methadone is used to assist in the treatment of substance abuse. Earlier this year, the Health Department's Community Health Center achieved JCAHO accreditation for the first time as a result of its demonstrated compliance with the Joint Commission's nationally recognized health care standards for ambulatory care programs.

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